

IN HONOR OF THE LIFE OF DR.  
VANG POBZEB

### HON. MARK GREEN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2005

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to commemorate the life of Dr. Yang Pobzeb, an extraordinary man who recently passed away on August 23, 2005 after a life of passionate service to human rights and Hmong people across the globe.

Dr. Pobzeb began his activism in the mid-1970s and was among the first to achieve national recognition in the Hmong American Community. In 1987 he founded the Lao Human Rights Council—an organization devoted to improving the living conditions of Hmong people both in Laos and the U.S. Dr. Pobzeb was a tireless advocate for a people and culture that faced tremendous persecution, and he took every opportunity to remind the international community of the plight of the Hmong people in Laos. I was proud to work together with him, time and time again, in this fight.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to commemorate the life of such an incredible man. Dr. Pobzeb was truly an exemplar of compassion and dedication, and on behalf of the citizens of Wisconsin's Eighth Congressional District, I offer my condolences to his family, and pay tribute to his life of activism and sacrifice.

CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST  
WISHES TO FATHER LAWRENCE  
SOLER

### HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2005

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a champion of the Waco, Texas community, Reverend Lawrence Soler. I would like to extend my most sincere thanks and congratulations to Father Soler for his principled service and dedication to the needs of his parishioners. We are celebrating Rev. Soler's 50th year in the priesthood.

Rev. Lawrence Soler has served as Pastor of Sacred Heart Church for over 27 years. He also served as Pastor of St. Francis Church for several years. During his tenure at Sacred Heart Church, Rev. Lawrence Soler directed the fundraising and construction of a new \$1.2 million dollar sanctuary to accommodate the ever-increasing Catholic community of south Waco. In the last 2 years, he directed the fundraising and construction of a new Parish Activity Center also.

During his service at Sacred Church, he has conducted thousands of marriages, baptisms, confirmations, and communions. The work of Reverend Soler is a model of selfless service and sacrifice. His generous spirit and tireless efforts on behalf of the community have undoubtedly touched countless lives.

It is my privilege to honor the contributions of Reverend Lawrence Soler and I personally want to thank him for the shining example has given to us all and wish him well in his future endeavors.

Thank you my friend.

A TRIBUTE TO ROSEMARY  
CHILDREN'S SERVICES

### HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2005

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rosemary Children's Services of Pasadena, CA, upon its 80th anniversary.

In 1920, Mrs. Emma Spear and the women of the Pasadena Shakespeare Club established a shelter program for abused, neglected or abandoned teenage girls in Pasadena, because the only alternative at that time was juvenile hall. Rosemary Cottage opened in April of 1920 and could house 10 girls and a housemother. Their name came from William Shakespeare's "Hamlet" "There's Rosemary, that's for remembrance; pray you, love, remember."

In 1928, a new "Cottage" was built and made available to 19 teenage girls. In the 1940s, Rosemary Cottage introduced treatment services, improved their property and hired social workers to meet the United Way standards. Rosemary's group home program was launched in 1967 by the generous donation of a home from Robert Romberger. The group homes program was the first step in teaching independent living skills to teenage girls in placement situations. Since then, three other group homes have been acquired and can house up to 43 at-risk girls.

Rosemary Children's Services help hundreds of children of all ages. Along with their excellent residential program, they provide foster care to nearly 400 girls and boys in Southern California, many of whom have been the victims of neglect, sexual, or physical abuse. They sponsor a school that provides specialized education in a small structured environment and their mental health program includes out-patient services for teenage girls, individual and group therapy, exercise programs, artistic activities and training in various life skills.

I am greatly honored to recognize Rosemary Children's Services for its 80 years of loving care and support to countless children in our community, and I ask all Members to join me in congratulating Rosemary Children's Services for their remarkable achievements.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING  
MARION GATEWOOD

### HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, Marion Gatewood has been recognized for being inducted into the Muskingum County Farm Bureau Hall of Fame; and

Whereas, Marion Gatewood has been acknowledged for his dedication and commitment to farming by the members of the Muskingum County Farm Bureau; and

Whereas, Marion Gatewood should be commended for his outstanding dedication to Muskingum County and for his exceptional knowledge and contributions to their farming community.

Therefore, I join with the residents of the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in hon-

oring and congratulating Marion Gatewood for being inducted into the Muskingum County Farm Bureau Hall of Fame.

COMMENDING THE GENEROSITY  
OF GALENA PARK,  
CHANNELVIEW, AND SHELDON  
ISD

### HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2005

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the generosity three school districts in our Congressional District have shown to our neighbors in Mississippi.

Galena Park ISD, Channelview ISD, and Sheldon ISD have united and adopted Pascagoula public schools in Mississippi. Twenty-three Galena Park Schools, eleven Channelview Schools and seven Sheldon ISD schools are collecting donations to provide school supplies clothing and other necessities to students in Pascagoula.

Pascagoula serves almost 9,000 students at 16 campuses. Reports indicate that two schools were completely destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. The rest of the Pascagoula campuses sustained severe roof and window damage.

In addition to sending badly needed resources to Pascagoula, Galena Park, Channelview and Sheldon ISD have also enrolled hundreds of students from Louisiana and Mississippi.

I'd like to thank the leadership and staff at these three school districts for opening their doors to the children who have been affected by Katrina. I wish the best to our neighbors in Mississippi, Louisiana and Alabama as they rebuild their lives.

TRIBUTE TO MS. REEVES DIXON

### HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2005

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep sympathy that I rise today to give a final goodbye to a wonderful woman who dedicated her life to helping others live well. Ms. Reeves Dixon passed away on September 2, 2005. She was a fine woman and will be sorely missed by all who knew her.

This daughter of the Bronx life's resume is long and impressive but I want to take a moment to highlight the important contributions she made to the people of my community.

Since 1980 Reeves worked with the 163rd Street Improvement Council, serving first as the Assistant Executive Director and later as its President and CEO. As CEO of the 163rd Street Improvement Council Reeves pushed the organization to plan, design, develop and implement affordable housing and support services that focused on meeting the housing and human services needs of the residents of the Southeast Bronx.

Most of the Council's clients have incomes below the median level. In an effort to help empower these low income families the council offers an integrated program which provides quality and affordable housing through

direct assistance that includes support services, education, advocacy, placement and referral. The Council helps to increase self-esteem and self determination and decrease dependency on government subsidies. Under her strong leadership the Council moved from a budget of \$400,000 to a multi-million dollar organization. Its growth not only demonstrated the great need for such an organization in the Bronx but also the strong leadership and vision of Reeves.

This past week the world watched in disbelief as Hurricane Katrina destroyed a major American city. While this storm will go down in history as the worst natural disaster to strike this Nation, it had much more significance. Katrina forced Americans to remove the wool that many had placed over their eyes to face the grim reality that there are millions of people in this country who live in utter poverty. Perhaps now Americans will realize the great responsibility they have to uplift those who are most vulnerable in our society. The life of Reeves Dixon is a shining example of how every American should lead his/her life—working to uplift her/his fellow man. Reeves understood that her community, much like the Nation as a whole, could not survive if its most vulnerable citizens were not protected. As a result she spent her life empowering others.

Although Reeves has passed on, the many good works that she did will continue to benefit the lives of others for generations to come. Surely that is the mark of great life. For her unyielding spirit and kind heart I ask my colleagues to join me in saying goodbye to a dear friend and role model to us all—Ms. Reeves Dixon.

#### A SALUTE TO DR. BILLY TAYLOR

#### HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2005

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, as Dean of the Congressional Black Caucus, and Chairman of the Jazz Forum and Concert that occurs during the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's Annual Legislative Conference, I rise to salute the lifetime achievements of one of the most distinguished artists in American music history, Dr. Billy Taylor. The following biography, found on the Kennedy Center's web site, chronicles a career of accomplishment deserving of such high recognition, and of this body's thoughtful attention and respect:

"Billy Taylor arrived in New York City on a Friday evening in 1942. He headed for Minton's Playhouse in Harlem, where he was heard by one of his idols, tenor saxophonist, Ben Webster. The following Sunday Taylor began his professional career, playing with Webster's quartet at the Three Deuces alongside Webster, Big Sid Catlett and Charlie Drayton. During this time, Billy was Art Tatum's protege and Jo Jones was his 'appointed guardian.'"

Taylor worked with Machito's Afro-Cuban band, replaced Erroll Garner in the Slam Stewart Trio, and became a member of the Don Redman Orchestra, the first American jazz band to tour Europe after World War II (1946). He also played on Broadway in Billy Rose's "The Seven Lively Arts," opened for Billie Holiday in "Holiday on Broadway," and

played in the pit band for "Blue Holiday," starring Ethel Waters, Mary Lou Williams and the Katherine Dunham dancers.

He played a lot of solo gigs along the northeast corridor—the Earle Theater in Philadelphia, The Royal Theater in Baltimore, the Howard Theater in DC and the Apollo in NYC. In 1949 he got a call to sub for Al Haig with Charlie Parker and Strings at Birdland. This was the beginning of his two-year stint as house pianist at that legendary jazz club. He played with everybody—Charlie Parker, Dizzy Gillespie, Miles Davis, Oscar Pettiford, Art Blakey, Milt Jackson, Zoot Sims, Roy Haynes, and Kenny Dorham among others. Often playing opposite such bands as Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Stan Kenton and Lennie Tristano, his tenure at Birdland was one of Taylor's greatest learning experiences.

Billy made some recordings with his own group during the early 1950's for such labels as Prestige, Riverside, ABC Paramount, Impulse!, Sesac, Mercury and Capital Records. He also recorded albums with Quincy Jones, Sy Oliver, Mundell Lowe, Neal Hefti, Eddie 'Lockjaw' Davis, Sonny Stitt, Lucky Thompson, Coleman Hawkins and Dinah Washington. He even started his own music publishing company, Duane Music, Inc.

Also about this time Taylor started writing about jazz and giving lectures/clinics to music teachers interested in teaching jazz. He began to witness first-hand, the serious lack of funding for the arts and humanities and began to focus on radio and television in order to gain better exposure for America's classical music. He helped to facilitate many local and national broadcasts featuring jazz artists in live performances. Some in broadcast studios, others in nightclubs, dance halls, and hotels. In 1958 he was named Musical Director of the first series ever produced about jazz, "The Subject Is Jazz" (NET). His house band for these 13 programs included Doc Severinsen, Tony Scott, Jimmy Cleveland, Mundell Lowe, Earl May, Eddie Safranski, Ed Thigpen and Osie Johnson. Guests included none other than Willie "The Lion" Smith, Duke Ellington, Langston Hughes, Jimmy Rushing, Bill Evans and Aaron Copeland among others.

During the 1960's Taylor was working regularly with his trio and hosting his own daily radio show on New York's WLIB. He was making guest shots on various TV shows and recording for Capital Records, when the Beatles began to nip at the heels of Taylor and other highly successful members of the Capital family like Frank Sinatra, Nat King Cole, and Peggy Lee. Rather than continue to be neglected, Taylor opted to forget about recordings for the time being and concentrate on radio and television. His success on WLIB led to a post at the popular WNEW, playing jazz for their affluent middle-of-the-road audience. He continued to perform as well during this period, usually with his trio and sometimes with larger ensembles.

In the early 1970's, Taylor was named Musical Director for the popular daily television show, The David Frost Show. Many feel he had the best jazz band on TV at that time. They played an hour jazz concert every night for the studio audience, and at least twice a week, Frost booked guests like Louis Armstrong, Count Basie, or Buddy Rich to play and be interviewed. Two recordings were made with Taylor's band on the Frost show before the show came to an end three and a

half years later. Billy Taylor returned to WLIB, this time as program director of the station and began to build the largest jazz audience in New York City. Simultaneously he had his own local television program on New York's Channel 47. It was about this time that Taylor was offered an opportunity to enroll in the doctoral program at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. He had been an adjunct professor at C. W. Post College in New York and a visiting professor at Howard University, and felt the need to organize his teaching materials so that they might be more effectively used by others. After a few years of intense study, he earned his combined Masters and Doctorate in Music Education (1975). But he sorely missed playing and writing music. He had been appointed to the National Council for the Arts by President Nixon in 1970, and although this was a tremendous honor, the amount of time required to be an effective arts advocate took precious time away from practicing his music. Nonetheless, he tackled the task at hand, alongside his distinguished colleagues, Maurice Abravanel, Eudora Welty, Beverly Sills, and Nancy Hanks, who were doing so much to help make the arts available to everyone. It was a highly productive and rewarding period for Taylor, but not especially creative, musically.

Sometimes things work themselves out in mysterious ways. Maurice Abravanel commissioned Taylor to write "Suite For Jazz Piano and Orchestra"; T. J. Anderson commissioned him to write "Make A Joyful Noise"; the University of New Hampshire commissioned him to write a dance suite, "For Rachel"; the Kentucky Symphony asked him to write "Impromptu." And so, Taylor began to write jazz for ensembles that were larger than his trio. He composed the musical score and lyrics for an off-Broadway production of Wole Soyinka's "The Lion and The Jewel," and some dance music for the original production of "Your Arms Are Too Short To Box With God." (To date, Billy Taylor has over 350 songs to his credit, including the popular, "I Wish I Knew How It Would Feel To Be Free," which has been recorded by various artists and served as an anthem for the civil rights movement. His latest work, "Urban Griot," is detailed under the Soundpost section of this website.)

All the while, Billy Taylor continued his work in broadcasting, as Musical Director for Tony Brown's Black Journal Tonight (PBS); and from 1977–1982, as host of NPR's most listened to jazz program of its time, "Jazz Alive." By the end of the 1970's he was touring with his trio more than ever, but playing fewer and fewer jazz clubs, which had become crowded, overpriced and excluded young people. Realizing the need to bring his music to a broader audience, Taylor began to focus more on performing in larger venues such as concert halls and performing arts centers, which were a welcome change.

In the early 1980's, Taylor was tapped by Charles Kuralt to become arts correspondent for the popular television program, "CBS Sunday Morning." Still at that post today, he has profiled over 250 well-known and not-so-well-known members of the jazz community. (He received an Emmy Award for his profile on Quincy Jones.) It was during this time that Billy also decided to start his own record company (Taylor Made), but after producing five albums, he realized that it was the music he wanted to be involved in, not the business. He